

Wu, Jennifer

From: Mastin, Mark <mcmastin@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 4:21 PM
To: Jones, Joseph; Wu, Jennifer
Cc: GS Archive Ask
Subject: Re: Flow data quality "good" rating

Jennifer,

There is no definition of a "good" rating that I know of. In a subjective manner we think of a good rating as one that has discharge measurements that are used to define the rating that span the range of stage values that may occur. Also a good rating is one that is stable or one that the discharge measurements plot consistently close to the rating curve.

We do have definitions of the accuracy of the discharge data which is directly related to the rating (assuming that the stage record is complete and accurate). There are four accuracy ratings used for the daily discharge: 1) "excellent" means that about 95 percent of the daily discharges are within 5 percent of the true discharge; 2) "good" within 10 percent; 3) "fair" within 15 percent; and 4) "poor" means that daily discharges have less than "fair" accuracy. These qualifiers are based on the streamgager's experience and judgement of the quality of the daily discharge record. These quality ratings can be found in the annual data reports for the station prior to water year 2013. In more current water years, the ratings can be found in the Water-Year Summary through the National Water Information System. For station 12458000, the Water Year Summary can be found at: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/wys_rpt/?site_no=12458000&agency_cd=USGS. For water year 2016 for station 12458000, the records are reported to be fair except for estimated daily discharges and discharges above 8,000 ft³/s, which are poor.

Let me know if you have more questions.

Mark Mastin
Acting Data Chief

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 10:12 AM, Jones, Joseph <jljones@usgs.gov> wrote:
oops, forgot to cc you

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 8:23 AM
Subject: Flow data quality "good" rating
To: gs-w-wa_NWISWeb_Data_Inquiries@usgs.gov
Cc: archive_ask@usgs.gov

Transaction=GSFWTYQQ [11JUL2017 15:23:38UTC]

Customer email: Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov

Customer: Jenny Wu

Customer phone: 206-553-6328

Customer address:

US EPA Region 10

Subject: Flow data quality "good" rating

Originating page: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/inventory/?site_no=12458000&agency_cd=USGS

Primary response: gs-w-wa_NWISWeb_Data_Inquiries@usgs.gov

Tracking info: tmplt=1|webchat=no|time=UTC15:21|time=UTC15:23|recipient=gs-w-wa_NWISWeb_Data_Inquiries@usgs.gov|sender=Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov

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Can you point me to a reference for the definition of a "good" rating for a USGS gaging station? I'm specifically looking at USGS Gaging Station 12458000 in Icicle Creek in Leavenworth, WA.

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Joseph Jones, Hydrologist

jjones@usgs.gov

253 552 1684

Washington Water Science Center

934 Broadway

Tacoma, WA 98402

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Mark Mastin

Surface-Water Specialist

U.S. Geological Survey, WA Water Science Center

934 Broadway, Suite 300; Tacoma, WA 98402

253-552-1609; FAX 253-552-1581

email: mcmastin@usgs.gov

